

31st MEU NEWS

UNIT 35621
FPO AP 96606-5621

October 6, 2008



Commander's Message



Marines and Sailors of the MEU have been working extremely hard these past two weeks to complete amphibious integration training in preparation for our final evaluation exercise at sea. The evaluation is scheduled to take place in the vicinity of Okinawa from 6 to 10 October. This evaluation is a significant milestone that certifies the MEU as deployable and fully capable of conducting all of its core missions. It is a common requirement for all Marine Corps Expeditionary Units and carries a great deal of significance. Once certified, the MEU becomes available for any type of contingency operation that may come up in the Western Pacific. At this point, I am confident in the training and abilities of our Marines and Sailors and I expect the MEU to complete the certification with flying colors.

Following the evaluation exercise, the MEU will participate in an important bilateral exercise with our counterparts from the armed forces of the Philippines. The exercise will take place at various sites in Luzon, Republic of the Philippines and will include bilateral military training and combined civil-military operations projects. The military training will emphasize various aspects of bilateral military planning, combined arms operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, and engineering operations. The MEU will support Filipino Marine Corps engineers in a combined project to construct a one room school house for a village near Guimba. MEU Marines and Sailors will also participate in several humanitarian projects to deliver school supplies and clothing to children in rural areas. Following the exercise, Marines and Sailors of the MEU will have a few days of liberty in the Republic of the Philippines that includes a number of tours to various cultural and historic sites in Luzon.

I know that by this point in our deployment, at least one or two unexpected challenges have probably popped up for our families. If you are faced with one of these events and need information on resources available, I encourage you to contact your designated Family Readiness Assistant.

Each of them has been trained to provide information and referral support to their fellow Command Element spouses as needed. All communications with a Family Readiness Assistant are strictly private and confidential. You also can contact our Family Readiness Officer, Beth Callahan, at any time.

I encourage you to check out the MEU's website at least once a week for the latest updates. It's a good source of news and information. Here's the link:

<http://www.marines.mil/units/marforpac/iiimef/31stmeu/Pages/default.aspx>

Semper Fidelis, Col Paul L. Damren

31st MEU Command Element Newsletter

Chaplain's Corner

Dear friends of 31st MEU. This is Commander Al Concha, currently 31st MEU Chaplain. The Navy Chaplain Corps serves the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, and the Merchant Marine. The mission of the Chaplain Corps is to provide religious ministries to meet the needs of naval service personnel and their family members. Chaplains are vitally involved with the people they serve. They offer worship services, religious education, Bible studies, religious outreach programs, and pastoral counseling as an integral part of their mission. Chaplains visit personnel in work spaces ashore and on ships, as well as in the field when serving with Marines. Chaplain Corps officers are the primary advisors to their commanders/commanding officers on matters of ethics and morale, and serve as a primary resource for core values development and training.

Navy Chaplains are 'ordained ministers' from different Religious denominations. Once ministers have completed their studies they submit a request to the U.S. Navy to serve as Chaplains.

Chaplains are your friendly contact to service members and their families. Hope we can offer you the best available support. Semper Fidelis!

Chaplain Concha
31st MEU

Upcoming 31ST MEU Command Element Family Readiness Event

31st MEU Command Element spouses and family members of all ages are invited to attend a family readiness bowling event at the Camp Courtney Bowling Center on Saturday 11 October from 5:00pm-8:30pm. There will be free pizza, soft drinks and bowling for all in attendance. If you don't feel like bowling, come out anyway to socialize and eat for free! No need to RSVP. Just come out and join in the fun.

Are you ready for Halloween?

October 31st Trick or Treating Hours:

Camp Courtney --6pm-8pm SOFA Status Only

Camp McTureous- 6pm-8pm Open to SOFA status and Local Nationals

Camp Foster – 6pm-9pm SOFA status Only –

Camp Kinser- 6pm-8:30pm Must sponsor Local Nationals for them to come on base



On Base October Events

Oktoberfest Sunday Brunch (Open to All Ranks)

Butler Officer's Club

Sunday, October 12

1st seating from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

2nd seating from 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Reservations are requested- For more information or to schedule your reservation, please call the Butler Officer's Club at 645-3273.

Cool weather and German food are made for each other. Enjoy this elaborate brunch filled with all of your traditional breakfast and lunch favorites as well as plenty of German fare.

FOSTER FEST

Saturday, October 18 from 3-10 p.m.

Sunday, October 19 from 1-10 p.m.

Camp Foster Parade Deck

Fun for the whole family at Foster Festival 2008. Admission is FREE and open to everyone island-wide. This year's festival will feature free entertainment, a variety of cultural foods, amusement rides, game booths, kiddie land, truck load of fun, and more.

Spooky Sites Tour

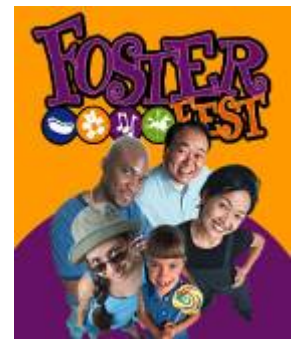
Travel with Tours+ to the spookiest sites on island if you dare! Bring your courage and your earplugs to muffle the screams! Sign up at your local Tours+ Office. Cost is \$18 for adults, \$11 for children (2-11) or \$5 for children 2 and under. Tours run from 6 pm to 10 pm on October 11, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31 & November 1.

Movie on the Lawn

Saturday October 25 @7pm (Movie starts at dark) On the field behind Risner Gym (Kadena AFB) grab your kids and your popcorn and come out to watch "It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown!" It's FREE!!

5K Kadena Run/Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness

Wear something pink on Friday October 31st and raise awareness about breast cancer! The US Naval Hospital will host an information booth and have give-a-ways. Free registration will begin at 0530 at Kadena's Rinser Gym. Run starts at the gym at 0630



OFF BASE OCTOBER EVENTS

- OCT 11-13 **The 38th Naha Festival**
Kokusai St. and Onoyama Park
- OCT 12 **The 38th Naha Big Tug-of-War**
Naha City around Kokusai St.
- OCT 18 **Bullfighting**
Ishikawa Multipurpose Dome
FREE
Starts: 1245pm
- OCT 18-19 **The 3rd Uruma Festival**
Gushikawa synthesis playground
- OCT 24-26 **Festival of RYUKYU 2008**
Ounoyama Athletic Field
POC: 859-4122
- OCT 24
- NOV 3 **Shuri Castle Festival**
Shuri Castle Park
- OCT 25 **Sing, Harlem, Sing!**
Open 1800 Start 1830
Okinawa Convention Center
S¥7,80 A¥6,500



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance 911
Off-Base 098-839-7911
Emergency Room 645-7338
Off Base 098-893-1984
Poison Control 643-7700
Car Accident 645-3423/3888

TYPHOON MOTORS 24-HOUR ISLANDWIDE TOWING

Camp Foster (0700-2100) 645-7441
Call Cell-Phone **AFTER** 2100
090-3794-2556

FOSTER SWITCHBOARD

098-892-5111
Directory Assistance
640-1110
Direct Dial from US:
011-81-98-892-5111+ number



KADENA SWITCHBOARD

098-938-1111

Calling on base from off-base: Dial the switchboard number and wait for a dial tone, then dial 7 digit number.



Military One Source

Military OneSource is brought to you in partnership with Marine and Family Services. There is no cost associated with using this service and best of all it is

available anytime of the day, where ever you are. So get in touch with us today. We have consultants who speak Spanish and offer simultaneous translation into more than 150 other languages. Phones are TTY/TDD accessible.

Military One Source offers advice, support, practical solutions, and online resources. Whether you're preparing for a new baby or preparing for retirement, getting organized or getting out of debt--no matter who you are--Military One Source is for you. No question is too small, no issue is too big. The service is pre-paid and confidential.

- 24-hour service, 7 days a week
- Personal support
- Referrals to military and community resources
- Online articles, newsletters, and workshops
- Pre-paid booklets and audio recordings
- Confidential consultation.

Visit - [Military One Source](#)

CONUS: 800-433-6868
OCONUS Universal Free phone: 800-237-42374
OCONUS Collect: 484-530-5908
TTY/TDD: 800-346-9188
En Espanol, llame al: 888-732-9020

In Okinawa:
On-Base: 99-001-800-869-02788 or
99-001-800-237-42374
Off-Base: Call collect 99-0051
Then provide operator: 484-530-5908

Marine Corps Family Team Building Family Readiness Training Schedule October 2008

SPOUSES LEARNING SERIES

Social Graces
October 15th
9:30am-12:30pm

Resume Building for the Volunteer
October 28th 10am-12pm



JN Spouses Meeting
October 9th
9am-11am Bldg 5677

JSO Class
Red Cross, Commissary, CYTP, WICO
October 16th 9am-12:30pm

JSO Class
Thanksgiving Cooking Class
October 30th 9am-1pm

Participants must be registered to attend.
For more information contact Marine Corps Family
Team Building at **645-3204**

Deployment Support Child Care (DSCC)

31st MEU Command Element families qualify for up to 10 free hours of respite hourly care per week at a Child Development Center. To register for DSCC please contact the Resource & Referral office to schedule an appointment. **645-4117**



ONLINE RESOURCES

www.marines.mil/units/marforpac/iimef/31stmeu/Pages/default.aspx

This is the official 31st MEU website! Save this link to your "Favorites" on your computer. The website is updated frequently to keep you informed on what your Marine or Sailor is doing at work.

www.mccsokinawa.com

This site offers a ton of information about what is being offered on all Marine Corps bases on the island. The site has links and information for over 80 MCCS programs offered on Okinawa.

www.kadenaservices.com

Provides information about activities and services the Air Force offers to all military members and their families here on Okinawa. It also contains links to Army MWR events on Torii Station and Okuma's online reservation page. Click on PETS to get links to the Vet Clinics and Karing Kennels.

www.japanupdate.com

Provides updates on what's going on Okinawa.

www.okinawahai.com

This website is designed by military spouses for military spouses on Okinawa.

www.mcbbutler.usmc.mil

Provides valuable information on policies and procedures that apply directly to all residents stationed on Marine Corps bases Japan.

www.okinawa.pac.dodea.edu

This site can answer any question you might have pertaining to the on-base school system on Okinawa

www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp

This site is your resource for all AAFES movie theater schedules